

Originator Parks and Recreation	Item Park Improvement Projects Update
Date 9/9/2015	
Description	

1. **Red Haddox Baseball Field Improvements** – Staff are still exploring options to improve the drainage of the small stormwater pond along the pathway to the south parking lot. A concrete pad has been installed inside the 3rd base side entrance.
2. **Normandale Lake Park Parking Lot Reconstruction** – Drain tile has been installed in the north stormwater pond to improve drainage. The cut electrical line to the boat ramp are has been reconnected. Landscaping irrigation has been reinstalled. Staff will schedule a final walk through to close out the project.
3. **Twins/Toro Rebuild Kent Hrbek Baseball Fields** - The Minnesota Twins Community Fund and Toro Foundation’s initiative to rebuild three fields at the Kent Hrbek Baseball Field Complex on August 19th (Prep Day) and 20th (Build Day) was a huge success! What seemed like an insurmountable task when the planning first began has become a reality and thousands of young baseball players now have some of the best fields in the state to play on for years to come. The project included rebuilding the pitching mounds on all four fields; three fields had the infield re-graded, trimmed and replaced with sod which included adding 235 tons of ag-lime and 36 tons of black dirt in addition to 750 square feet of sod. The project was funded by \$20,000 of donations, \$10,000 each from the Twins and Toro presented to the Mayor and City Manager in a brief ceremony on August 20.

The Toro and the Twins organizations were incredible partners on this project – their passion and enthusiasm for youth sports was contagious in the 100 volunteers they brought to assist with rebuilding the fields. The twenty-five City staff involved went above and beyond in making sure that everything was done safely and efficiently while working closely with the army of volunteers on both days. It is well worth visiting the fields to see the results.



4. **2015 Park Improvement Projects** – The project consultant, CEI Engineering has drafted project specifications and they are currently under review by Legal and Purchasing. We hope to get the project out

to bid in the next three to four weeks. The public meeting to review the playground equipment proposals probably won't occur until the October or November PARC meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin in November and should be completed by spring 2016.

5. **Valley View Playfield Tennis Courts** – The tennis court project is substantially complete and the courts are open for use by the public. A few minor punch list items remain to be addressed.
6. **New Bike Racks** – The City is utilizing a State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant to order bike racks for installation in a number of City parks. We anticipate installing the bike racks, many with new concrete pads, by the end of October.
7. **Bicycle Repair Stations** – The bicycle repair stations have been installed at the Dred Scott Playfield/Hyland Trail and at the Bloomington Civic Plaza (see below photo).



8. Shade at Brookside Park - At the August 3 City Council meeting, a Bloomington resident spoke during the public comment period. She inquired about the potential of adding some kind of shade structure to the Brookside Park playground. Staff from Parks and Recreation and Park Maintenance met to discuss options and ideas for potential solutions to this issue. Some of the ideas discussed were:
 - Plant additional shade trees adjoining the playground and benches. (+ cost effective approach, - not a short term solution)
 - Install a commercial fabric shade structure over the playground area. (+ short term solution, - costly to purchase and maintain (we haven't done this at any other playgrounds in the City).
 - Work with an Eagle Scout candidate to construct a shade structure adjacent to the playground. (+ cost effective, potential short term solution, - would not cover the playground area)
 - Install a commercial shelter building adjoining the playground. (+ effective shade option, -costly)
 - Install a small commercial shade structure over one of the benches. (+effective shade option, -costly and doesn't cover the playground)
 - Install an umbrella stand and provide free umbrellas for playground users. (+ cost effective, - not a practical option)

On August 13 Parks and Recreation staff spoke with the resident over the phone about all of the above options. She stated she very much appreciated the phone call and the discussion. She stated that she completely understands the

issue of cost. Staff stated that in the future more trees are planned to be strategically planted around the playground area. Additionally staff will explore options for a smaller shade structure (Eagle Scout or potentially a small commercial shade structure) but may take a period of time to (1-2 years) to implement. The resident stated again how much she appreciated staffs' effort to explore this issue. Staff stated if additional shade options are going to be implemented, staff would communicate directly with her.

9. Smith Park Improvements - The three Smith Park parking lots were restriped in July to include handicap parking spaces with adjacent loading/access spaces. While discussed by City staff earlier this spring, no additional parking spaces are planned to be constructed in the northwest parking lot. In addition, a water meter for the multiple-use field irrigation was installed, and an ADA-compliant curb cut that connects to the south sidewalk on Dar Al Farooq property was placed at the south parking lot.

Requested Action

No action required.

Attachments: